

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

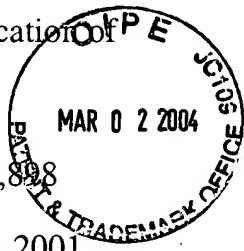
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In re Patent Application of

POWERS et al

Appl. No. 09/743,898

Filed: January 17, 2001



Atty. Ref.: 36-1406; Confirmation No. 8599

TC/A.U. 2126

Examiner: C. Anya

For: PREDICTING AVATAR MOVEMENT IN A DISTRIBUTED VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENT

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March 2, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Technology Center 2100

Sir:

RESPONSE

In response to the Office Action dated 12/04/2003, reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the following remarks.

The rejection of claims 12-20, 27 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being made "obvious" based on Huang '669 in view of Leahy '045 is respectfully traversed. Similarly, the rejection of claims 1-11 and 21-26 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being made "obvious" based on Huang '669/Leahy '045 in further view of Brush II '285 is also respectfully traversed.

The primary reference to Huang '669 is only effective as "prior art" as of its US filing date, December 16, 1998. However, by virtue of its British priority date of

August 14, 1998, applicant is entitled to a date of invention in the United States that precedes or antedates the Huang '669 patent. Accordingly, Huang '669 is not "prior art" with respect to the present application.

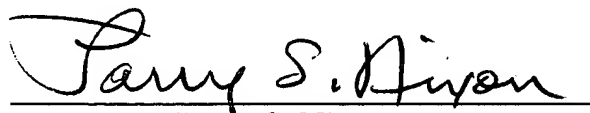
Although receipt of applicant's priority document has not yet been acknowledged by the USPTO, the present case is a §371 US national phase of a PCT application.

Attached hereto is a copy of Form PCT/IB/304 dated 24 September 1999 acknowledging timely receipt of applicant's priority document at the IB on 22 September 1999. For the Examiner's convenience, a copy of applicant's priority document is also attached hereto. Acknowledgement of receipt by the USPTO is requested.

Accordingly, all outstanding grounds of rejection are clearly erroneous and withdrawal of same is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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